

HONORING DENVER PUBLIC
SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT
JERRY WARTGOW

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Denver Public Schools (DPS) Superintendent Jerry Wartgow, an exceptional leader in our Colorado education community. Dr. Wartgow will leave his post as superintendent on June 1st of this year.

For four years, Superintendent Wartgow has worked tirelessly to improve education in Colorado by closing the achievement gap between minority and non-minority students, raising accountability standards, promoting innovative reform and building a strong relationship between the school district and the city.

Before coming to DPS, Dr. Wartgow was President Emeritus at Colorado Community College and Occupational Education System. He was also the President and Chief Executive Officer for International Training and Education Alliance. Dr. Wartgow holds a PhD from the University of Denver, a Masters Degree of Education from the University of Hawaii, a Bachelor of Science from the University of Wisconsin, and has done post-doctoral work at the East-West Center in Honolulu and Harvard University in Boston.

Denver Public Schools is the second largest school district in Colorado—with an extraordinarily diverse student body—and with a long history of serious challenges that have included teacher strikes, racial and ethnic divisions and difficult budget choices. Jerry has faced each of these challenges head on with characteristic innovation and enthusiasm. Through his leadership a progressive new professional compensation plan will be brought to Denver voters in November 2005. This program, "ProComp," will give teachers financial incentives for student achievement. His vision, compassion and tenacity allowed him to forge alliances between parents, students, teachers and school districts to both raise standards for Colorado kids and to provide teachers the professional opportunities they deserve.

While certainly much work remains to be done, Jerry Wartgow's leadership throughout his tenure as superintendent of DPS has paved a formidable path for the future of education in Colorado. He is widely respected in the community and has set a high bar for his successor. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Jerry Wartgow for his enormous contribution to the Colorado education community.

HONORING BEAUMONT, TEXAS
MAYOR EVELYN LORD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a sterling individual in my Southeast Texas District—the Mayor of Beaumont—Mrs. Evelyn Lord.

Following an over-two-decade-long tradition of service to Jefferson County, she will step down from office on May 17th. Through the

years, Mayor Lord has left an indelible imprint on the Beaumont community and while she is entitled to a well-deserved break, she undoubtedly will be missed.

Mayor Lord began her legacy in local government in 1980 when she was elected to the first of two terms on the Beaumont City Council. Her plans to run for office in 1984 were cut short when her husband and close confidant, Sam, was transferred to Northern Ireland by his employer. Towards the end of 1988, however, she returned to Beaumont and was elected mayor two years later. Mayor Lord then served two successful terms and retired in 1994.

At a critical juncture in the City's history, she was encouraged to return to public life and in 2002 was once again elected to the mayorship. Only when she was certain that the City was on the path to healing did she decide to forego a fifth term as Mayor.

During her tenure, Mayor Lord remained keenly aware of the unique threats that the Beaumont area could face in a post-September 11 environment. Accordingly, she shepherded the efforts to develop a distinct homeland security plan for Southeast Texas, which has served as a model state-wide. And, realizing that quality of life issues are often the basis for community revitalization, she spearheaded the creative charge to improve Beaumont's park system through public-private partnerships.

Demonstrating the high regard in which she is held among her peers, Mayor Lord was elected to the Board of Directors of the United States Conference of Mayors and served in such key positions as Chair of the organization's Arts and Recreation Standing Committee and as a member of its Homeland Security Task Force.

Even before she came to Beaumont, Mayor Lord was a committed public servant wherever Sam's career opportunities led them. She was elected as a State Senator in the State of Delaware and served as an Administrative Assistant to a County Judge in Kentucky. In Beaumont, she served with distinction in many capacities, including Vice President of Texas Commerce Bank and as Chairwoman of the Texas State Spindletop Centennial Commission.

Finally, few charitable organizations in Beaumont have escaped Mayor Lord's helping hand, highlighted by her work at the United Way, Texas Energy Museum, Boy Scouts, Julie Rogers "Gift of Life" Program, Chamber of Commerce, and Community Partners for Children.

Mayor Lord's leadership at Beaumont City Hall will always be remembered and her accomplishments will be felt throughout the community for years to come. Nonetheless, I am confident that she will not disappear from public life entirely and I join all of those in Texas' Second Congressional District in wishing her and Sam the best as they enter this exciting new phase of their lives.

As Margaret Thatcher once said, "Success is having a flair for the thing that you are doing; knowing that is not enough, that you have got to have hard work and a sense of purpose." Mayor Lord . . . she has that, Mr. Speaker.

RECOGNIZING AMANDA BLAKELY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize the outstanding achievement of Amanda Blakely of Crandall, Texas, who was recently named the winner of the 37th Annual Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award.

Amanda, who is a graduating senior from Crandall High School is the High School Print Winner for her work, "Ms. Mary and the Big Blue House." Her work takes readers into the home of foster parents Mike and Mary Brooks through moving interviews with three teenagers who have been placed in their care by the Texas Children's Protective Services.

The Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards honor outstanding reporting of problems of the disadvantaged. RFK Journalism Award winners have covered such diverse issues as child abuse, juvenile crime, bank redlining and discrimination against people living with AIDS. Past winners of this prestigious award include Diane Sawyer of ABC, The Chicago Tribune, The Washington Post, National Public Radio, and CBS's "60 Minutes."

This is the second major national journalism award for Amanda. In November 2003, Bob Scheiffer presented Amanda with the Ryan White Foundation National Journalist Award at the Journalism Educators Association Convention in Washington, DC. Amanda has also received national honors from the Los Angeles Times in August of 2004.

Award-winning work and journalism must run in Amanda's genes. In 1988, her late grandmother, Jannette Cox, of Athens, Texas, was honored by both the Texas House and Senate as well as by United States Congressman Jim Chapman for her work with the Athens Creative Center. Amanda's grandfather, John H. Cox, now a journalist for the Cedar Creek Pilot, once was assigned to cover former Texas Governor, now President, George W. Bush for the Jacksonville Daily Progress.

As Congressman for the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, I would like to recognize Amanda and congratulate her grandparents, along with her parents Gerald and Lynda Blakely, for her outstanding accomplishment.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
LIZZY RATNER ON HER 30TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker: Whereas, Lizzy Ratner is celebrating her 30th Birthday today; and

Whereas, Lizzy Ratner has been and continues to be a positive influence on all persons fortunate to meet her; and

Whereas, Lizzy Ratner has shown love for her family and friends and must be commended for her dedication to these relationships.